Introduction of Bio-technology in Class XI by CBSE

2454. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bio-technology has been introduced as an elective subject in Class XI by the CBSE;

(b) whether its implementation has been successful; if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would study thoroughly the introduction of Bio-technology, before and after its implementation in school;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Bio-technology is an emerging field of science and has enormous scope and prospects for the younger generation. This course has been introduced at senior school level in about 125 schools affiliated to the Board.

(d) The CBSE periodically updates the curriculum in order to meet the challenges arising out of scientific and technolgical inventions. The Board had taken a feedback from various stakeholders before its implementation in the schools.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Departmental action against KVS officers

2455. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases wherein Central Vigilance Commission had advised the Ministry/KVS during the preceding three years, to initiate suitable departmental action against erring and charged officers;

(b) the details of the opinions, in each case; and

(c) the details of the action taken/initiated/contemplated in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Advice for 32 cases were received from Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) during the last three years. This includes 17 disciplinary cases for 1st stage advice and 15 disciplinary cases for 2nd stage advice. The advice/opinion tendered by CVC is of confidential nature and the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has so far imposed major penalty in seven cases, minor penalty in one case, initiated disciplinary proceedings in 4 cases and have closed 18 cases.

Poor UGC funding for research and development

2456. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expenditure Reforms Commission, in its recent report, has highlighted, *inter-alia*, that the universities are steadily losing primacy in the research and development efforts in the country, due to poor funding by the University Grants Commission; and

(b) if so, the details of the major observations/recommendations of the Commission and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon, so as to improve the standards of teaching and research in universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir. In this respect ERC in its recent report has made the following observations:

> "The UGC has responsibility for extending assistance for both standards of teaching and for research. However, within the resources available to the UGC, the share of research is a small fraction. Apart from other equally valid reasons, this situation is also responsible for universities steadily losing primacy in the R&D effort in the country."